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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago, Ill.

July 12, 1945

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

PHILATELIC DATA ON  
1945-46 DUCK STAMP

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NOTE: A photograph of the artist's design is available upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Chicago 54, Illinois.

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Twelfth of its series, the 1945-46 Federal migratory bird hunting stamp, better known as the "duck stamp", can now be purchased by philatelists as well as hunters at all first and second-class post offices, advises the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The design of the new stamp shows a female and two male shoveller ducks in flight. The birds are in full plumage.

Rated as one of the most attractive of the U.S. Revenues, the duck stamp has continued to increase in popularity among stamp collectors since it was first issued in August 1934. Anyone may purchase the stamp, singly, in blocks, or in complete sheets of 28 stamps. About twice the size of a special delivery stamp, the duck stamp costs \$1 each. Each year the Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the duck stamp funds, has a distinctive design struck off.

Migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age are required by law to have these stamps in their possession while hunting and each hunter must cancel his stamp with his signature.

For the benefit of collectors, the Service supplies the following philatelic data on the 1945-46 issue:

Color: Black and white.

Origin of the material: Photograph of a black and white water color by Owen J. Gromme, furnished by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Designers: Central design by Owen J. Gromme; frame and lettering by Victor S. McCloskey, Jr.

Engravers: Vignette by Matthew D. Fenton; outline frame, lettering and numeral by John S. Edmondson.

The artist, Owen Gromme, now curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum in Milwaukee, Wis., is a native of that state, having been born in Fond du Lac in 1896. Prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1918 which took him overseas with the 33d Division, he was employed for a year by the Field Museum of Chicago as taxidermist in the N. W. Harris Extension Department under Herbert L. Stoddard who later became famous for his well known book on the bob white quail.

In 1922 Gromme joined the Milwaukee Public Museum as a bird taxidermist and in 1926 became the head of his department. A year later he was named as the Museum's representative on the Cudahy bird and mammal expedition to Alaska.

Gromme has been an ardent sportsman and wildlife student since early manhood. Incidental to, but as a part of his regular work at the museum, he has done considerable lecturing on wildlife subjects. Since 1926 he has supervised the building of bird and mammal groups and collected a considerable portion of the material now on exhibit. In addition, he also has painted background birds in several of the Museum's bird groups.

He was a member of the Cudahy-Massee Milwaukee Public Museum expedition which went to East Africa in 1928-29 to collect bird and mammal material for the Museum African Halls.

In order to make graphic studies of birds for future mounting at the Museum, it was necessary for Gromme to learn how to make color notes of all fleshy parts and to record painted studies of environment for the building of groups. While in Africa hundreds of such records were made in oil. Large numbers of water color and oil, as well as pencil attitude sketches, were made as preliminary studies of the birds.

Currently, Mr. Gromme is engaged in the preparation of the forthcoming two-volume work to be called Birds of Wisconsin which the Milwaukee Museum will publish. He is painting the 85 or more water color illustrations which it will contain.

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